Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

Cancel claims 1-18.

- 19. (New) An antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof having the CDR-H3 sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 30, and SEQ ID NO: 31.
- 20. (New) An antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof having the CDR-L3 sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 32, and SEQ ID NO: 34.
- 21. (New) An antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof having a CDR-H3 sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 30, and SEQ ID NO: 31, and a CDR-L3 sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 32, and SEQ ID NO: 34.
- 22. (New) A method for identifying candidate sequences of at least the CDR3 region of antibodies specific against at least

one antigen produced by *Clostridium difficile* during an infection or against a vaccine, comprising the steps of:

- (i) with B cells isolated from at least one patient who has been infected by Clostridium difficile or administered said vaccine, sequencing at least the CDR3 region of the VH and/or VL coding regions of said B cells; and
- (ii) correlating said sequences of at least the CDR3 regions of the VH and/or VL coding regions of said B cells from said at least one patient to identify a set of candidate sequences for at least a CDR3 region of antibodies specific against said at least one antigen produced by Clostridium difficile or against said vaccine, each of said set of candidate CDR3 sequences or a sequence having at least 80% homology therewith occurring in total at a frequency of at least 1 percent in the set of sequences determined at step (i).
- 23. (New) A method according to claim 22, said B cells being selected from the group consisting of peripheral B-cell lymphocytes and B cells from the spleen.

- 24. (New) A method according to claim 23, said peripheral B-cell lymphocytes being isolated from blood from said at least one patient.
- 25. (New) A method according to claim 22, said at least one antigen being an immunogen.
- 26. (New) A method according to claim 22, said at least one patient displaying a pronounced antibody response in response to infection by *Clostridium difficile*.
- 27. (New) A method according to claim 22, said at least one patient having recovered from infection by *Clostridium* difficile.
- 28. (New) A method according to claim 22, said correlation step (ii) comprising determining putative amino acid sequences from said sequences of at least the VH and/or VL CDR3 coding regions, and correlating said putative amino acid sequences.
- 29. (New) A method according to claim 27, said correlation step (ii) comprising identifying the Complementarity Determining

Regions comprised in said at least the VH and/or VL regions and correlating said Complementarity Determining Regions.

- 30. (New) A method according to claim 29, said Complementarity Determining Regions being selected from the group consisting of CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3.
- 31. (New) A method according to claim 22, said correlation step (ii) additionally correlating at least one of the group consisting of: the strain of *Clostridium difficile* infecting said at least one patient, the time point at which said B cells are isolated during infection of said at least one patient by *Clostridium difficile*, the age of said at least one patient, the sex of said at least one patient, and the race of said at least one patient.
- 32. (New) A method according to claim 22, said B cells having been isolated from said at least one patient at a plurality of time points during infection of said at least one patient by Clostridium difficile, said correlation step (ii) correlating the time point during infection of said at least one patient by Clostridium difficile at which said B cells are isolated.

- 33. (New) A method according to claim 22, said B cells having been isolated from at least two patients, at least one of whom has recovered from infection by Clostridium difficile, and at least one of whom has not recovered from infection by Clostridium difficile, said correlation step (ii) correlating the recovery of said at least two patients from infection by Clostridium difficile.
- 34. (New) A method according to claim 22, said B cells having been isolated from at least two patients, said patients being infected by different strains of Clostridium difficile producing said at least one antigen, said correlation step (ii) correlating said sequences of at least the VH and/or VL coding regions of said B cells to identify a set of candidate sequences for antibodies, each of which is specific against at least one shared antigen produced by said different strains of Clostridium difficile or is specific against different antigens produced by said different strains of Clostridium difficile.
- 35. (New) A method of producing a database which identifies candidate sequences for antibodies specific against at

least one antigen produced by *Clostridium difficile*, comprising the steps of:

- (i) performing a method according to claim 22; and
- (ii) storing the data produced by said method in said database.
- 36. (New) A method of generating a report which identifies candidate sequences for antibodies specific against at least one antigen produced by *Clostridium difficile*, comprising the steps of:
 - (i) performing a method according to claim 22; and
 - (ii) producing a report comprising the data produced by said method.